

# Partnership Agreement To Foster Research, Education

The U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) and Haskell Indian Nations University have entered into an Educational Partnership Agreement to collaborate on research of mutual interest and benefit. ERDC Director Dr. James R. Houston and Haskell President Dr. Karen Swisher signed the agreement during September at a ceremony on the Haskell campus in Lawrence, Kansas.

The agreement recognizes the importance of science and technology education to the future political and economic well being of the nation as well as the importance of Haskell to U.S. business, industrial and government institutions. The partnership with ERDC will encourage and enhance study in the scientific disciplines to broaden Haskell's academic program while supporting the Corps of Engineers' research and development mission.

"The Educational Partnership Agreement forges a commitment between Haskell and ERDC to blend our individual talents in research that benefits the Department of Defense and the nation," said Houston. "The partnerships to be formed under the agreement will bring mutual rewards to our organizations."

Faculty and students are already supporting ERDC's research. Databases developed as part of coursework are helping researchers and military installations plan cultural management activities. Oral histories being collected from Native American veterans as far back as World War I will document their significant contributions to the U.S. armed forces.

"This agreement formalizes an ongoing relationship that has already provided research opportunities and resources for Haskell students and faculty," said Swisher. "We look forward to working with ERDC to generate projects that continue to advance research skills for our students and produce projects of mutual benefit."

Haskell Indian Nations University is one of the oldest and most recognized American Indian/Alaska Native Universities in the United States. Founded in 1884 as the U.S. Industrial Training School, Haskell was originally established to assimilate Native American children into mainstream America. Today the university is a center for advanced academic study and cultural preservation. Haskell has an average enrollment of 950 Native American students representing 152 Indigenous Nations from across the United States.

ERDC is the premier research and development facility for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It consists of seven laboratories at four geographical sites, with over 2,000 employees, \$1.2 billion in facilities, and an annual research program exceeding \$550 million. It conducts research in both military and civil works mission areas for the Department of Defense and the nation.



***Dr. James Houston, ERDC Director, and Dr. Karen Swisher, Haskell President, sign Educational Partnership Agreement***